

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 and 17-21 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections under this section.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ofek et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,134) in view of Dalal et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,162,575). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The outstanding rejection overlooks a fundamental difference between the presently claimed invention and the attempted combination of references. The fundamental difference being that, in Ofek et al, the second storage device never obtain access permission for a specific host from the first storage device. In Ofek et

al, a determination is made as to whether a volume in the first storage device has any restriction that precludes data migration. If so, then such data cannot be obtained from the first storage device by the second storage device. Ofek et al do not disclose or suggest that the access permission of one host relative to another host is considered.

On the other hand, according to the invention as recited in claim1, for example, the access restriction information setting method includes "a fourth step for setting up, on the target port of said second storage device which is selected in said third step, second access restriction information based on said first access restriction information of a port of said first storage device to which a volume, of which the port is utilized for an access, is assigned so that said first host computer is permitted to access said first storage device via the target port of said second storage device, while said second host computer is not permitted to access said first storage device via the target port of said second storage device." Therefore, a distinction is made between access by the first host computer and access by the second host computer via the target port of the second storage device.

Since Ofek is silent with respect to access permission, it follows that if a volume has a restriction against migration, that restriction against migration applies to all hosts. In such a case, the hosts can access the volume directly from the first storage device.

During data migration, as set forth at column 8, line 54 to column 9, line 30, when a read or write request from the host to the second storage system requires that data be migrated from the first storage system, the second storage system obtains the necessary data from the first storage system. As a result, it is not necessary to determine the access permission of the host to a volume in the first storage system.

The deficiencies in Ofek et al are not overcome by resort to Dalal et al. Since Ofek et al do not disclose taking over access permission, for one host relative to another host, by one storage device from another storage device, it is difficult to imagine how Ofek et al could be combined with Dalal et al to arrive at the presently claimed invention. The portions of Dalal et al referenced by the Examiner do not disclose the claim limitations for which they are cited, namely setting up access restriction information of a target port of the second storage device based on access restriction information of a port of the first storage device. Instead, Dalal et al merely disclose templates (defined as "a meaningful set of rules") and the taking over of one template by another template (see column 18, line 30 to column 19, line 21). As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Request for Interview

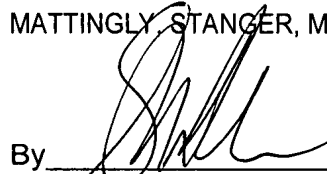
Applicants request that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned prior to issuing an Office Action in order to expedite prosecution of this application. As such, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time for the interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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